AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the Patent Application:

Listing Of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A process for alkylating a hydrocarbon feed which comprises contacting the a hydrocarbon feed to be alkylated with an alkylation agent in the presence of a catalyst comprising a solid acid, a hydrogenation metal, and 1.5 - 6 wt% of water, measured as the loss on ignition at 600°C, wherein said catalyst contains no halogen component.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the catalyst comprises 1.8 - 4 wt% of water.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2 wherein the catalyst comprises 2 - 3 wt% of water.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the solid acid is selected from the group consisting of zeolites, silica-alumina, sulfated oxides, mixed oxides of zirconium, molybdenum, tungsten, or phosphorus, chlorinated aluminium oxides or clays, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4 wherein the solid acid is a zeolite selected from the group consisting of mordenite, zeolite beta, X-zeolites, and Y-zeolites.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the hydrogenation metal is a Group VIII noble metal.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbons are saturated hydrocarbons.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the catalyst is prepared by adding water to a dry catalyst comprising solid acid and hydrogenation metal before use in the alkylation process.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the alkylation process is started using a catalyst comprising less than 1.5 wt% water and wherein water is added to the catalyst during the alkylation process.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein water is added to the catalyst during the alkylation process by exposing a regenerated catalyst to a water-containing atmosphere, or by using a water-containing atmosphere during a regeneration step.